

REMARKS

This Election is submitted in response to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed December 13, 2005. The Election/Restriction Requirement specified that the Applicants are required to elect one of the following patentably distinct species:

- (1) Species 1, Claims 6-15 and 29 drawn to an embodiment as described in the Specification on page 4, lines 25-19 and page 5, lines 1-17;
- (2) Species 2, Claim 19-23, 49-58, drawn to an embodiment as described in the Specification on page 5, lines 23-29 and page 6, lines 1-4; or
- (3) Species 3, Claims 30-31, 37-38, 41-43, drawn to an embodiment as described in the Specification on page 7, lines 22-29 and page 8, lines 1-5.

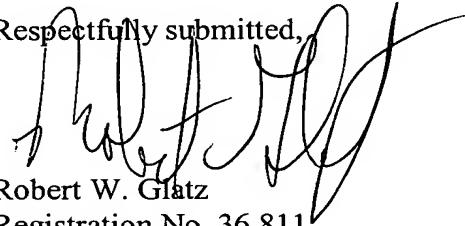
Claims 1-5, 17, 24-28, 32-35, 39-40 and 44-48 are identified as generic.

Applicants note that the Election/Restriction requirement failed to consider the preliminary amendment file on November 15, 2005. In addition, the designation of a species provides little guidance as to the distinction relied on by the Examiner in the grouping of the species other than a reference to the Summary of the Invention section of the application including language tracking respective ones of the claims. Applicants regret that they are unable to understand the basis of the Examiner's perceived distinction between the species and, as a result, are not able to provide a meaningful designation of claims beyond that provided by the Examiner in the Office Action.

The Applicants appreciate the courtesy of the Examiner in a telephone interview with the undersigned representative on January 6, 2006, during which each of these issues was raised by the undersigned. The undersigned indicated that a response would be filed to meet the deadline if the Examiner was unable to provide clarification of the requirement and application of the requirement to the claims currently pending before the deadline for this response. As no such clarification has been provided, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species 1 with traverse. Accordingly, based on the originally filed claims, Claims 1-15, 17, 24-29, 32-35, 39-40 and 44-48 are now ready for substantive examination based on the Examiner's designations. Applicants regret that they are unable to read this species, or any other species, on the currently pending claims, as Applicants are unclear as to the basis of the

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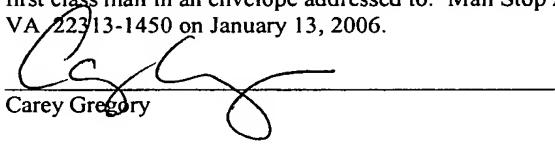
requirement. Applicants respectfully request substantive examination of appropriate ones of the presently pending claims or clarification from the Examiner of the requirement as applied to the presently pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Glatz
Registration No. 36,811

Customer No. 20792
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
P. O. Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: (919) 854-1400
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 13, 2006.


Carey Gregory